

# Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

## War With One Angry Man: Osama bin Laden

- Standard: I. Culture  
II. Time, Continuity, and Change  
III. People, Places, and Environments  
V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions  
VIII. Science, Technology, and Society  
IX. Global Connections  
X. Civic Ideals and Practices
- Grade Level: 9–12 (research, analysis, and high-level reasoning)
- Objectives: The student will:
- Explain why Osama bin Laden declared war on the United States
  - Describe the reasoning behind the theory that U.S. policy became one of war with one man
  - Discover how the death of bin Laden was represented around the world
  - Research the background of bin Laden's anger toward the United States
- Time: 2 class periods, plus homework time
- Materials: Documents: **1994** Excerpts from *Osama bin Laden's Declaration of War*  
**1998** *Osama bin Laden's Second Fatwa*  
**2011** *On the Death of Osama bin Laden*
- Resources: *A Changing Paradigm* (either a hand out or transparency)
- Exercises: *Who is this Angry Man?*

Access to the internet or computer lab for these sites:

- <http://www.mideastweb.org/osamabinladen1.htm>
- <http://middleeast.about.com/od/terrorism/f/binladen-jihad-faq.htm>
- <http://middleeast.about.com/od/terrorism/p/070908a.htm>
- <http://www.netplaces.com/american-history/the-twenty-first-century/osama-bin-laden-and-al-qaeda.htm>
- <http://terrorism.about.com/od/groupsleader1/a/binLadenContext.htm>
- <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/osama-bin-laden-dead-what-took-so-long-13508399>
- <http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=13508503>

Procedures:

*Setting the Stage*

Osama bin Laden issued his first declaration of war—or fatwa—against the United States in August 1996, allegedly from his safe haven in the caves of Afghanistan. It was published in *Al Quds*, an Arabic-language newspaper published in London. He issued a second fatwa against the United States in 1998.

Students will be asked to use multiple websites to uncover bin Laden's history and to explore Thomas Friedman's theory of "paradigm change" from his best seller, *Longitudes and Attitudes: The World in the Age of Terrorism* (New York: 2003).

Many books have been written explaining the "war on terror." Check the media center for these types of resource, including:

- Books by Bob Woodward
- *Inside Terrorism* by Bruce Hoffman
- *9-11 was There an Alternative?*, by Noam Chomsky
- *Ghost Wars* by Steve Coll
- *The United States vs. al Qaeda: A History of the War* by Foreign Affairs
- *The 9/11 Commission Report* by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks
- *The Longest War* by Peter Bergen
- *The History of Terrorism from Antiquity to al Qaeda*, Gerard Chaliand, ed.
- *Terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by Cynthia Combs

*Pre-Lesson*

- 1.** Get as many books as possible from the Media Center on terrorism and Bin Laden's wars and bring them to the classroom. Display on a cart or table.
- 2.** Download the video clips announcing Osama Bin Laden's death for projection during the lesson.
- 3.** Arrange for a cart of wireless laptops or a trip to the computer lab.

*Day One*

- 1.** Distribute the two documents, *Excerpts from Osama bin Laden's Declaration of War* and *Osama bin Laden's Second Fatwa*. Ask them to take notes on his reasons for declaring war.
- 2.** As they read, ask them to reflect on the idea that one man could declare war on a country such as ours.
- 3.** Discuss their thinking from the readings and their notes. Distribute the resource, *A Changing Paradigm*, and discuss the concept of paradigm change in world affairs. There will be many questions on the cost of hunting one man down, etc.
- 4.** Distribute the exercise, *Who Is this Angry Man?*, and the laptops (or move to the computer lab). Ask students to research all the sites listed above, as well as additional links they will find to answer the questions about Osama Bin Laden.
- 5.** Research will take some time, but the information will interest them, since this is a big topic with students. If they are working in the

classroom and have access to the books on terrorism, suggest that they also scan the books for relevant information.

**6.** After they complete the questions, go over all the answers together—except the last question, which will be saved for discussion during the next class. There should be *a lot* of discussion.

**7.** For homework, ask them to find a political cartoon on the death of Osama bin Laden from newspapers around the world and bring it to the next class period.

### *Day Two*

**1.** Start with the two video clips announcing the death of bin Laden. Discuss what they see and think about these two announcements.

**2.** Distribute the document, *On the Death of Osama bin Laden*, and ask students to follow along as you, the teacher, read this aloud. Ask the students to respond to these remarks.

**3.** What would they add to the announcement? How did it make them feel? What did they think when they heard it (if they did)?

**4.** Ask them to volunteer to share the political cartoons they have found and stick them on the front boards as each student shares. What is the tone of each cartoon? What feelings are being displayed? How? As a class decide which one they like the most and why.

**5.** Return to the exercise, *Who is This Angry Man?*, and discuss the last question. Ask them to add to what they have already written from the discussions and information shared. They may again want to look at some of the books on the cart.

**6.** Collect these papers and keep the cartoons on the board for several days.

### Extension Activities:

**1.** Ask students to read any book on terrorism and be ready to share their opinions on a given date. Is this their generation's war future?

**2.** Ask students in teams to find out the total cost of the search for Osama bin Laden. Arrange their findings in chart form for group presentation. ■